

# Letter from the President

I'm glad to see we're already through the worst of what's been a pretty decent winter for the most part! The Iowa Dairy Goat Association rang in the New Years with the special announcement of our first ever Youth Ambassador, Ben Lehman!

Ben will be working with the board of directors on year long projects as well as giving our board his input on key issues. Ben will be representing the Association at several events throughout the year at events that reach out to the youth of our industry and his schedule which is still continuing to build can be found on our website:

[www.iowadairygoat.org](http://www.iowadairygoat.org)

The Iowa Dairy Goat Association is looking at a busy spring between Ben's schedule and our upcoming spring show! Please plan on attending this great 4 ring doe, 2 ring buck show May 30-31<sup>st</sup> in Colfax, Iowa! Also, in recent newsletters we have been unable to include a family interview of one of our member's families & their dairies. If you would like to volunteer your family for an interview to be included in upcoming newsletters please contact myself or IDGA Secretary, Guinevere McIntyre.

I hope your all surviving the winter and are having a successful kidding season!

Shelby Cornelius  
Iowa Dairy Goat Association President

It's that time of year again, Show Time. Well, at least time to start planning which shows to go to.

Mark your calendars for May 30 and 31, 2015 in Colfax, Iowa. IDGA Spring Classic, 4 Doe Rings 2 Buck Rings in a fun filled 2 day show. The 4 doe rings are double sanctioned and the Buck rings are single sanctioned. The Nigerian Dwarf's are dual sanctioned with the AGS again this year.

Our judges are Jay Rudolf and Barb Norcross on Saturday and Ziggy Ginest and Karen Smith on Sunday.

There are a few changes to the show rules this year. Please read them and help us keep this show running smooth.

Stay tuned to the IDGA website and our Facebook page for updates and registrations.

Any questions? Call 515-249-7799.

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# Last N' News

Spring 2015

## Breed Codes

Capital Letter=  
Purebred/American

Lower Case=Grade

A=Alpine  
N=Nubian  
B=Oberhasli  
S=Saanen  
T=Toggenburg  
L=LaMancha  
P=Pygmy  
D=Nigerian Dwarfs

Others are listed  
\*Buck Service

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## **2014 Breeders List**

## **Tack Pen Philosophy**

Greetings all

What an exciting time, so much to talk about, so many experiences to share. I think I'll start with the notion that for the first time in a long time and maybe ever, dairy goats have a real and true value. As you may all know, I help a committee of Amish in South East Iowa with their semiannual Production Dairy Goat sale. With the goat milk prices being at an all time high and roughage and grain and fuel prices very reasonable the demand for production dairy goats is powerful. At the last January sale I witnessed coming yearlings, freshening in March start at \$ 350 and go right on up to \$675 each, 2 and 3 year old near fresheners bringing \$525 on up. It only took a short time to sell the 330 consigned and we had room to sell another several hundred I'm sure. There were several standing orders to buy from the East portion of our country before the sale even started. My point being if you haven't put much importance in milk production it may be time to reconsider putting that trait back into your animals and let them pay their way instead of just that hobby animal. Sure many or most of us enjoy doing the showing and it's truly a family event where as we all go and share the fellowship. BUT, if you were to amend your plans and take a little time to keep some milk records, perhaps improve on production and have it in your budget to prove out some females, freshen them out, test them, then sell off what doesn't fit into your show program, then for the first time ever your animals would actually pay their way. Several people might say, "well I might be only able to do 4 or 6 extra head"... Well so be it... let's say you only did 5 head to set aside for production purposes. With the recent prices that could be somewhere around an extra \$3000.00 to go right to the bottom line. \$3000.00 dollars would buy a lot of feed at my place, it would pay the hay baling labor, and it would put more gas in my truck to go to an extra show. From what I've seen the only breeds that wouldn't maybe get a decent bid would be the Nigerian Dwarfs, but there are people at the sale looking for everything. If you're curious about what I mean by milk production, (you production people are smiling knowing this data) the basis that buyers seem to be looking for are those 8 lbs of production per day, or 2440 lbs in 305 days. Of course as the numbers increase from there so does the value of your animal. Butter fat and protein levels also come into consideration and add more bonuses on top of weight. For the first time in years I'll be doing DHIR again and breeding more for production than before. Many of us have been in dairy goats for decades and can remember when sales depended on other show people or 4-H or FFA buyers. If you lived near a dairy and they were short on animals and yours were decent on production then perhaps you could move a few that way, but other than that it meant an end at the sale barn. So stand up and take notice, your day has come. Many people are seeing a good future in the goat dairy, cow milk is still low and the demand in this country has swung towards the niche market.

I want to share some on the upcoming IDGA Spring show, James will be telling most of the news, but what I'd like to do is fire you up and have you tell a friend about our show, or invite a 4-Her to come along and help. We're having 4 judges, with 4 rings of females and 2 rings of bucks. Plan on making this journey, support the local show and keep this going. This event is right in the center of the State to keep it located in a place where all exhibitors can take advantage and make this a grand event. The date was moved back to help miss some important family events (graduations) and hopefully it will be warmer than in the past. Plan now. Plan now. Plan now. Get your registrations done early, get your whites ready, get your clippers prepared, and DO IT!!!!!!

Lastly I'll share the tragic story of some friends in the nearby town of Collins. The Girard family is fairly new to the goat world but has been showing the last couple years in the Story Co. fair and they came to the IDGA spring show last year. A couple weeks ago their barn burned to the ground with their 4-H goats and horses in it during the night. The barn was located near their home and they were lucky it didn't catch their house on fire too. They lost all the animals and stored hay. As we go into spring keep in mind our blessings, and keep your mind on safety too. I asked the family how they were doing and if any of us could help. They mentioned that they needed time to gather their thoughts and start again. Perhaps later on they will know what direction they are going and I'll send out the call for help. It would be nice to get the girls back into some goat projects.

Until we meet again.... Butch Sowers, Tack pen Philosopher

## **Youth Ambassador**

It has been an exciting start of the year for the IDGA youth program. Guinevere and I have been getting the word out about the new Share-A-Kid program, a great new way to get kids involved in dairy goats. We are taking applications from now until April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you know someone who may have an interest in starting a dairy goat project, this is a great way of starting up. I also got the opportunity to talk to exchange students from Japan, who had never seen goats in action before, and am busy preparing for the ISU Animal Learning Day on April 11<sup>th</sup>. We are planning to be at several other events like this promoting IDGA and the entire dairy goat industry. Make sure to check out the youth program's page on the IDGA website to see where we're headed next.

Ben Lehman



# Will She Kid Tomorrow?

or...

## *How to Check Tail Ligaments*

**By Guinevere McIntyre**

In watching for kidding, I have certainly spent my fair share of time running back and forth to the barn and on pins and needles every time I have to leave the house. Early on, my sweet non-complaining does (hmmm...) have spent days and even a couple weeks in their kidding stall prior to kidding because I just wanted to be on the safe side. This is even when I had a firm breeding date - somehow I always seem to be expecting them a few days ahead. With the exception of 2014, when the babies all surprised me one breeding cycle earlier...and in that case, only the first set of twins surprised me as after that I knew it was time to start checking tail ligaments!

I can't say enough about how much smoother kidding season is for us now that I check tail ligaments on a regular basis. It is useful if you have a firm breeding date, but it is also useful if you just have a vague idea of the breeding date. I don't know why I felt that this skill was beyond me in our first couple years with goats, but I'm glad I moved past that silliness and figured it out!

Checking the tail ligament has allowed me to consistently predict when kidding is imminent, within the next 24 hours. Unless for some reason I am going to be gone overnight, I don't even move my does into their maternity stalls until we are in that 24-hr time period, which allows them to stay with the herd and feel relaxed until just before kidding (at which point, they are pretty distracted by the whole process and I think they like having their own "room" then!)

Next time you go out to the pasture, go ahead and check some tail ligaments, even on the boys, it doesn't matter, just so you can find them and see what they feel like when they are nowhere near kidding (with the boys, seriously nowhere near kidding!). I like to start checking them daily at least 2 weeks out from the expected kidding date, and I usually feel subtle changes in the softening and widening out of the ligaments at various points throughout that period of time. When the doe is pretty close, the softening becomes more noticeable, and then when the doe is really close, there is a dramatic opening up of that whole area and I either can't find the ligaments at all, or they are so very soft that they have almost disappeared completely.

### ***Here's what you do:***

- Hold the fingers of your hand (I use my right hand) in a V shape. Let's say that the top (widest part of the V) is north, and the bottom (point) is south.
- Place the point of the V over the doe's tail bone, with the V opening up so that the tail is a bit north of the North end of your V. (Tail above the wide opening).
- Now resting the point (South) of the V on that tail bone, use your V fingers to press along either side of the tail bone, feeling for the tail ligaments. For me, I usually find them while my fingers are in a fairly normal V-shape, so if you find that you are really stretching them out or making any unusual shapes, get back to the normal V. :)
- Normal tail ligaments will feel much like pencils...as kidding approaches, they soften and finally melt away.

It's just a great way to take away any guess work and really get in touch with how your doe's body is really progressing towards the big moment. It has consistently put me on the 24-hr alert and saved my poor does from unnecessary days hanging out in their kidding stalls!

A good video:

Signs of Labor in Goats - Tail Ligaments by the Goat Mentor <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44DFLFIQXwY>  
She doesn't do the V with her fingers but it's absolutely a great visual, and the demonstration itself is less than 2 minutes.

### Share-A-Kid deadline coming soon!

Entries to win a registered dairy goat doeling are due April 1. Contest is open to residents of the state of Iowa, ages 10 to 17, and a member of IDGA, 4-H, FFA, or other agricultural groups.

Applicants submit an essay and other supportive materials and commit to showing their doeling at a county fair or youth show.

Please visit [www.iowadairygoat.org/shareakid.html](http://www.iowadairygoat.org/shareakid.html) for more details and a pdf of the entry form. One entry form is included with this newsletter – while only one doeling may be awarded per family per year, siblings are encouraged to apply!

### Share-A-Kid Contest Entry Form

Each year, the Iowa Dairy Goat Association promotes interest in dairy goats in our state. One of the ways we encourage our young people in this aspect of agriculture is through our Share-A-Kid program. Winning applicants are selected from the essays they send in. This statewide contest is open to those between the ages of 10 and 17 years of age, and who are a member of IDGA, 4-H, FFA, or other agricultural groups. We can only award one goat per family per year; however, siblings are encouraged to apply. The entry form, as seen below, must accompany the essay. Be sure to complete the form with all required signatures. Winners are required to show their animal at a county fair or open class goat show. We also request that at some point over the following year, the winner write a brief article for the IDGA newsletter, Last'N News, about their doeling. If within one year of receiving their goat, the winner finds that they cannot keep her, the donating party is to be contacted concerning the goat's future. Winners are not required to give a doe kid back to the program, but are encouraged to do so. The essay of 100 words or more, should tell why the applicant would like to have a dairy goat, how they are going to take care of her (food, shelter, and medical care), if they have ever raised a goat before and if not, who will help them, why they love goats, and what they love about goats. Spelling and content count. Please remember that this is a contest and we want you to put a lot of effort into your entry. The essay can include drawings, photos, or any other special thing you would like to send in. No essays will be returned, and if your essay is selected, it will be given to the donor, so be sure to keep a copy for yourself. Everyone will be notified by mid May about the status of his or her entry. Please attach this entry form to your essay. Entries will be accepted from January 1st to April 1st . Please send your entry to: Guinevere McIntyre 8499 Hwy T-38N Grinnell, IA 50112

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Breed 1st Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Breed 2nd Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Club/Chapter:

\_\_\_\_\_

Club/Project Leader Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Club/Project Leader Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Polio Judi Nayeri

References available on request

Over the years I've received many calls about ill goats with polio-like symptoms. Many of those have been treated successfully, so I hope this will be helpful to you. My first experience with Polio was about ten years ago. A Nubian yearling was in a breeding pen. When I did my routine check, she was "down" in her hindquarters. No matter how hard she tried the best she could achieve was a sitting position. She was immediately transported to the ISU Veterinarian Clinic in Ames. She was treated for tetanus, bacterial infection and Polio. Happily she recovered fully. A few years later a goat "went down" at a very hot county fair. A vet was called and she was treated for Polio. She was also blind but within the next few weeks she recovered fully including her sight.

Polio in goats is not a contagious disease but a vitamin deficiency. Goats and other ruminants are dependent on Thiamine in the rumen which metabolizes glucose into carbohydrates. The carbohydrates are necessary to maintain healthy brain cells. When something occurs to disrupt the pH balance in the rumen, "friendly" Thiamine producing organisms can't function causing a failure in the cascade causing brain cell death. Subsequent brain edema occurs causing a variety of neurological symptoms.

Neurological symptoms may include one or more of the following: weakness, staggering, tremors, blindness (which may last several weeks after recovery), posturing, diarrhea, decreased appetite, increased aggression, increased temperature, increased respiratory rate, decreased heart rate or nystagmus (rapid eye movement). Rumen motility remains normal. Star-gazing is very common early symptom. Our goats are very attentive, when one stares past us, into space or ignores us (when not preoccupied) it is time for concern. Remember, anything that negatively affects the rumen environment can disrupt the "good" microorganisms, *Bacillus* sp., *Clostridium Sporogenes*, and *B.aneurolyticus* and hinder their Thiamine production. The other consequence is to encourage organisms that produce Thiaminases which catabolize or break down the Thiamine. Either way the result is Thiamine deficiency. A major cause is feeding a diet rich in concentrate ration and low in roughage. Other causes may include but are not limited to prolonged treatment with higher than recommended doses of Corid (amprolium), deworming, grazing on recently fertilized pasture, high sulfur intake (as from water), and rarely published but one of the most common causes I have seen, STRESS.

There are several diseases which can mimic Polio. CAE, Listeriosis, Enterotoxemia, Toxemia of Pregnancy, grain poisoning, plant poisoning, Rabies and Tetanus, most commonly Tetanus and Listeriosis. Tetanus can be differentiated by tickling the eyelid; if the third eyelid flashes across the eye that is pathonomic for tetanus otherwise it is Polio. Also in Tetanus the joints cannot be manually bent while in Polio they are flexible. It is sometimes advantageous to treat with Procaine Penicillin to cover Listeriosis, in doses high enough to cross the blood-brain barrier. Use 1.5ml/25# body weight or 6ml per 100# body weight of 300,000 Iu/ml. Tetanus can be covered with 1cc of Tetanus antitoxin.

Treatment of the thiamine deficiency is simple. The literature varies greatly on dose, route and frequency of treatment. I usually use 1-2cc of 200mg/ml on a small kid and 6-8 cc on an adult animal, IM. This can be repeated in 24 hours if needed. I called a ruminant veterinarian at ISU and he suggested 5mg/ # IM or if the animal is extremely ill 5mg/# IM and IV simultaneously. Repeat injection daily for 2-3 days if necessary. Thiamine is cheap and it is water soluble so overdose is not a concern. The animal will excrete anything it doesn't use. You won't overdose.

Most of the literature talks of a winter disease, but actually, it is a year 'round disease. My cases have always been in the summer when they are in milk and pushing feed based on production. In the winter my goats are on maintenance only. In summer we are also under a lot more stress with showing and weaning. Remember, early treatment is the key. Last summer my son was walking through the barn and noticed a doeling standing in a corner with tremors and staggering when she walked. She was treated immediately,

she was stronger in 10-15 minutes and fully recovered in about thirty minutes, but we did continue to watch her for 24 hours. Length of recovery will depend on how long the animal has been sick. If unsure, it is better to treat the animal than risk losing the goat. If you wait, by 2-3 days it will be too late. Remember Thiamine is water soluble; you can't harm a goat by misdiagnosis or over treatment. If unsure, TREAT. Thiamine is cheap but it is prescription so get some from your vet as well as procaine Penicillin and TAT and keep these on hand. Goats never get sick when the vet is in. You can always call the vet in the morning to follow-up, but TREAT ASAP.

### **Having trouble with store-bought formula?**

While goat milk is always the best for baby goats, sometimes we find ourselves needing to feed or supplement kids with some type of substitute. If the kid is having scours on the store-bought formula, the Grinnell Veterinary Clinic points out that their growth will be stunted.

Many breeders find that a homemade goat formula is the best solution when goat milk is not available. There are many recipes available on-line; The following is one tried and true recipe:

4 cups of nonfat dry milk (any generic grocery store version will do)  
12 cups warm water  
2 large eggs  
½ cup whipping (heavy) cream  
½ cup yogurt

Mix in blender or well with a whisk. Do not cook or microwave the formula.

### **Weak Kid Recipe**

2 parts Magic  
1 part corn oil (has to be corn oil)  
1 part Molasses  
2 parts Karo Syrup  
1 part strong coffee

Mix well and warm a bit. Give 10-12 cc every 45 minutes or so, being sure that they are swallowing. (If they are not swallowing, STOP - they need to be tubed.)

Also, in one SubQ shot:

BoSE (1 cc/40 lbs - do not overdose)  
1 cc Vit B 12  
1 cc Vit B complex

Ever wonder what to do with all that wonderful goat milk? Attend the

**IDGA Cheese Making Clinic** and find out!

**Saturday, April 25, 2015**

**Colo Community Center, Colo, IA**

**1:00 to 4:00 pm**

Join Guinevere McIntyre and Lori Wells and learn to make soft cheese favorites: Chevre, Mozzarella and Whey Ricotta. Get hands-on experience with cultures, cooking, draining and stretching curd. Recipes and tips from the cheese makers will be provided. Find out how simple cheese making can be! Cost is \$10.00 per person, payable at the door. Proceeds benefit IDGA.

For more information, contact Guinevere at [jasperfarm@live.com](mailto:jasperfarm@live.com) or Lori at [wells2674@hotmail.com](mailto:wells2674@hotmail.com). Be sure to visit the IDGA website at [www.iowadairygoat.org/cheesemaking.html](http://www.iowadairygoat.org/cheesemaking.html) for any updates.

# IDGA Marketplace

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FDF-PLEASANT-FIELDS MY TIME - B001350329 (AM)

Nubian

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GCH ++\*B FRA-JAC'S C/F MARMADUKE - N000525826 (PB)  
SG++B AMBERWOOD FROSTY SUPREME - N000488379 (PB)  
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